

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6586

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1317

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, CG, US

SUBJ: PETROLEUM SUPPLIES FOR CONSTRUCTEURS INGA SHABA (CIS)

1. KINSHASA 1311 DESCRIBES OVERALL PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTION SITUATION AS SEEN FROM HERE. THIS MESSAGE ADDRESSES SPECIAL PROBLEM OF ASSURING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF POL TO CIS DURING CONSTRUCTION OF THE LINE.

2. SINCE MOBUTU HAS SUMMONED COMMISSAIRE D'ETAT FOR ENERGY AND PETROZAIRE OFFICIALS TO MEET HIM FEB 15 (PRESUMABLY ABROAD), RECOMMEND AMBASSADOR VANCE SEND MESSAGE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES TO BISENGIMANA THROUGH U.S. CHANNELS ASAP:

DEAR MR. BISENGIMANA:

I KNOW WHAT A HIGH PRIORITY PRESIDENT MOBUT SETS ON COMPLETION OF THE INGA SHABA TRANSMISSION LINE. I HAVE LEARNED WITH PLEASURE THAT THE LOAN DOCUMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN SIGNED AND THAT MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, AND PERSONNEL WILL SOON ARRIVE IN ZAIRE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOZ IS CONSIDERING NEW ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION AND MARKETING OF OIL. IN THIS CONNECTION I CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION THE GREAT IMPORTANCE TO BE ATTACHED TO CONSTRUCTEURS INGA SHABA HAVING AN ASSURED SOURCE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN REQUIRED QUALITIES AND QUANTITIES AND AT REQUIRED LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD. IN

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ORDER TO MEET THIS FUNDAMENTAL NEED, CIS CONSULTED AT

LENGTH THE FOUR MAJOR PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTING COMPANIES AND ON DEC 21, 1973 SIGNED A LETTER OF INTENT WITH TEXACO WHEREBY THE LATTER UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY PRODUCTS UNDER THE REQUIRED CONDITIONS. THIS LETTER IS OF COURSE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF SNEL.

GIVEN TEXACO'S SIZE, EXPERTISE AND THE AMOUNT OF DETAILED PLANNING THAT HAS GONE INTO MEETING CIS'S REQUIREMENTS, I PERSONALLY HOPE THAT SNEL WILL SOON BE AUTHORIZED TO APPROVE THE ABOVE MENTIONED LETTER OF INTENT. FRIENDLY GREETINGS,

3. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF SUGGESTED MESSAGE IN PARA 2 ABOVE:

CHER MONSIEUR BISENGIMANA

JE SAIS QUE LE PRESIDENT MBOUT ACCORDE UNE HAUTE PRIORITE A L'ACHEVEMENT DE LA LIGNE A HAUTE TENSION INGA-SHABA. C'EST AUSSI AVEC PLAISIR QUE J'AI APPRIS LA SIGNATURE DES DOCUMENTS CONCERNANT L'EMPRUNT ET L'ARRIVEE PROCHAINE AU ZAIRE DES MATERIAUX, DE L'EQUIPEMENT ET DU PERSONNEL NECESSAIRES.

PAR AILLEURS, JE CROIS COMPRENDRE QUE LES AUTORITES ZAIRIUSES ENVISAGENT DE NOUVEAUX ARRANGEMENTS POUR L'IMPORTATION, LA DISTRIBUTION ET LA VENTE DES PRODUITS PETROLIERS. A CE SUJET J'ATTIRE VOTRE ATTENTION SUR LA GRANDE IMPORTANCE QUI S'ATTACHE A L'APPROVISIONNEMENT DES CONSTRUCTEURS INGA-SHABA IN PRODUITS PETROLIERS EN QUANTITE SUFFISANTE, DANS TOUTES LES QUALITES RQUISES, ET AUX SITES DESIGNES, PENDANT TOUTE LA PERIODE DE LA CONSTRUCTION. PUR POURVOIR A CE BESOIN PRIMORDIAL, LES CIS AVAIENT CONSULTE EN DETAIL LES QUATRE PRINCIPALES COMPAGNIES PETROLIERES AU ZAIRE, ET LE 21 DECEMBRE ONT SIGNE AVEC L'UNE D'ELLES, LA TEXACO, UNE LETTRE D'INTENTION SELON LES TERMES DE LAQUELLE LA TEXACO S'EST ENGAGEE A FOURNIR LES PRODUITS NECESSAIRES DANS LES CONDITIONS EXIGEEES. CETTE LETTRE EST BIEN ENTENDY SOUMISE A L'APPROBATION DE LA SNEL.

ETANT DONNEE L'IMPORTANCE DE LA TEXACO, SA LONGUE EXPERIENCE, ET LE PLANNING DETAILLE QUE A EU LIEU DANS
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LE BUT DE GARANTIR L'APPROVISIONNEMENT SANS FAILLE DES CIS, J'ESPERE, QUANT A MOI, QUE LA SNEL SERA AUTORISEE A APPROUVER SANS DELAI LA DITE LETTRE D'INTENTION.

AMITIES,
NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

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